

in granting which the Council acted in direct hostility to their attorney's legal advice, his letter of resignation could have but one true meaning.

The Council has, in three instances at least, applied to the City Attorney for his opinion upon important public matters, and then taken a course in direct opposition to his interpretation of the law and his official advice. We do not see how Col. Merritt could have retained his self-respect and his city office at the same time. The public will appreciate his action and give him credit for proper dignity and consistency.

We think the gentleman has served the city faithfully and ably. We took exceptions to one legal opinion which he gave to the Council, because we believed it was formed more in accordance with their wishes than with good law and sound common sense. We allude to the opinion that the Council could not reconsider its action in regard to the rate of taxation for the year. But in other respects we think Col. Merritt has taken an admirable course, and given good counsel to the partly bogus body which has ignored his advice and set at naught the legal principles which he has explained to them. He will go out of office with honor.

The action taken last night in reference to the liquor license for the Variety Theatre marks another big blot upon the record of the present Council. The citizens will take further notice that the majority of the members pay no regard to the wishes of the masses of the people, the advice of their own attorney or the opinions of a competent court. They pose as the masters of the city, not the servants of the people, and in their insolence and self-sufficiency do just as they please with the money and the property of the municipality, and in reference to the moral sentiment of the citizens.

If conservative "Liberals" have not had enough of ring "Liberal" rule, they ought to be kept under its bondage and shame until they come to their senses. But by the time the present set of imprudent incompetents have finished their term, we think the "Liberal" stomach will have had much more than enough, and will either voluntarily or with intentional vigor, eject the whole outfit for good and all. We invite attention to the minutes of last night's session as a specimen of the manner in which they "monkey" with municipal affairs.

The price of oxen varies all the way from 350 to 550 kroner per yoke.

UTAH'S REAPPORTIONMENT.

A SPECIAL from Omaha to a Salt Lake paper which makes the maligning of the "Mormons" its chief distinction, gives a purported interview with ex-Governor Saunders, of the Utah Commission, in regard to "the situation" in this Territory. He is reported as saying that the Commission will meet here in May and stay till after the August election. Also that they will then attend to the work of redistricting the Territory. And these words are put into the mouth of the Commissioner:

"Heretofore it has been so apportioned as to give the Mormons everything possible under the census of 1880, but this will be changed under the new census, so as to arrange the districts as they should be. This will give Salt Lake more than double the representation that it has now."

We do not believe that the gentleman made use of the expressions contained in that paragraph. It is more likely to be the work of the reporter, or dispatcher, or manipulator. The apportionments that have been heretofore made did not "give the Mormons everything that was possible." On the contrary, the last apportionment and districting was largely made with a view to discrimination in favor of the so-called "Liberals."

Neither do we believe that the gentleman intimated, as quoted at in the dispatch, that there will be an attempt to do anything of a partizan character under the new arrangement and census. We think he has more wisdom and discretion than to hint anything of that character.

We shall expect, until something definite to the contrary appears, that the Utah Commission will perform the important duty assigned to them as law and justice require. The Territory should be redistricted and the apportionment be made according to the geographical contiguity and natural association of places, and the population thereof as related to the population of the Territory. They have no right to consider the question of "Mormon" or "Gentile," of People's party or "Liberal" party, of Republican or Democrat.

Any intimation that the Utah Commission are to be resolved into an election board to manipulate the Territory so as to favor one class or party at the expense of another, is, to say the least, very uncomplimentary to those officials. We prefer to entertain the belief that they will seek to be fair and equitable, and to be guided by the law rather than by the wishes or demands or pleadings of any faction or clique, and utterly regardless of any influences that may be brought to bear upon them for the profit or gratification of financial speculators or political wire-pullers.

RUMORS OF WAR.

Is England going to war with Venezuela? This is a question that it appears as if it might be answered in the affirmative. For a long time the boundary line of British Guiana has been a question between both countries. News has reached here that on the 24th inst. a fight had taken place on the frontiers of Guiana between English and Venezuelan troops. The trouble arose over the boundary line.

England claims a slice of territory as large as the State of New York. Venezuela contends that England has no right to this territory. England acquired her rights through the Dutch, from whom the country was obtained by the London treaty of 1814. At that time the Essequibo River was regarded as the boundary line. But in 1841 the British made a survey, and claimed a large territory west of the river. Forts were built on what the British, after the survey, called the boundary line.

From 1841 until 1884 the question was continually agitated. In the latter year an attempt was made to settle the matter. Venezuela contended that the Essequibo River was the line, while the British adhered to their survey of 1841. During Lord Granville's government from December, 1884, to June, 1885, a plan was outlined by which the boundary issue could be settled by arbitration. However, nothing of a satisfactory character was done, and the question remained open and a source of frequent dispute.

Last year, an English official steamed up the streams of the disputed territory and posted announcements of English dominion all along the line of the 1841 survey. He went so far as to arrest a Venezuelan officer and take him to Guiana, to be punished. Guzman Blanco, an ex-President of Venezuela, and a very able statesman, protested against the encroachments and aggressions of England. A sharp correspondence ensued between the two governments, until finally diplomatic relations were broken off. Now the report reaches us that a war has commenced between these countries.

Venezuela is bounded on the east by British Guiana, on the north by the Caribbean Sea and on the south by Brazil. Its area is said to be 500,000 square miles, and its population about two millions. It is drained by the great river Orinoco. It has mountain peaks reaching an altitude of over 15,000 feet. It has a coast line of nearly 2000 miles, and a maritime power like England could harass and destroy all the coast towns.